

NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

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September 8, 2005

The Honorable James Talent
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Talent and Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition which represents 44 State Narcotic Officers Associations with a combined membership of sixty-thousand law enforcement professionals to offer our strong support for the "Combat Meth Act of 2005," which was reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 28, 2005.

As narcotic officers, we have seen the manufacturing and use of methamphetamine grow from a predominately Western State problem to a plague that threatens the security of Americans in every state of the union. Tremendous increases in the production of this powerful and dangerous drug occur in small clandestine labs located throughout the country and super-labs located in the western states. The dangers posed by these labs and the drain that they cause on law enforcement resources has created substantial problems for the communities that play host to these kitchens of death. These host communities become dumping grounds for the five to ten pounds of highly toxic chemical waste that is a by-product for every pound of methamphetamine that is manufactured. Many of these labs are operated in homes where children are present. These young victims are exposed not only to the violence of the drug trade but a host of chemically induced health risks that will plague them for the rest of their lives. In 2003, the DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System reported that more than 3,000 children were found on site during law enforcement actions related to clandestine methamphetamine labs nationwide; with forty-one of these children reported injured and one killed by explosions or fire at clandestine meth labs.

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Assn. of Oklahoma
Narcotic Enforcers

Oregon Narcotics
Enforcement Assn.

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Officers' Assn. (TERR)

R.I.S.S. Projects

Tennessee Narcotic
Officers' Assn.

Texas Narcotic
Officers' Assn.

Utah Narcotic Officers' Assn.

Washington State Narcotics
Investigators' Assn.

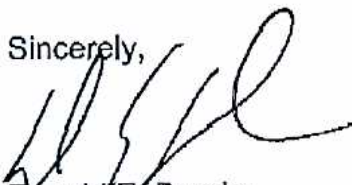
Wisconsin Narcotic
Officers' Assn.

The membership of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition wants to commend you and your co-sponsors, the leadership that you have shown in developing this important piece of legislation. The Combat Meth Act of 2005, addresses the plaguing of methamphetamine by providing new resources and tools that aid law enforcement in its fight against this methamphetamine epidemic. Your bill provides additional funds that train State and local law enforcement in the investigation of methamphetamine offenses; expands the Methamphetamine/Drug Hot Spots Program to include personnel and equipment for enforcement, prosecution, and lab clean-up; and establishes grant programs for services to drug-endangered children. Most importantly, your legislation will dramatically reduce production by providing reasonable but effective restrictions limiting access to pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, the primary precursor chemical used in methamphetamine production -- while preserving the ability of State and local governments to counter the threat posed by methamphetamine through more stringent regulation if they deem it necessary.

On behalf of America's Narcotic Officers, the Law Enforcement profession in general, and speaking on behalf of the many American Communities that are suffering from this meth plague, I want to again thank you for your leadership as we work together to fight methamphetamine and discourage methamphetamine and the devastation that it brings to this country.

Our Coalition and its membership, stand ready to work with you and your staff to see this legislation enacted into law. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 415/436-8199 or by email rbrooks@nca.hidta.net or at P.O. Box 36103, San Francisco, CA 94102 if I can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Brooks', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ronald E. Brooks
President NNOAC

Cc: The Honorable Arlen Specter, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary